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ABSTRACT

Northland Pioneer College, a decentralized community college serving rurally populated Northeastern Arizona, has a cooperative agreement with Mogollon High School Library in Heber to serve both college and high school students and faculty. Under this experimental agreement, on-site learning resource center services are provided by the high school, while cooperative reference services are provided by the college learning resource center in Holbrook. The college center also provides collections of materials which are sent on permanent loan to the high school library, helps with interlibrary loans, and faxes copies of articles for students and faculty. A limited amount of student help is also provided, as well as a COM (computer output microfilm) catalog of college holdings. Deliveries are made by shuttle service twice a week when classes are in session or overnight by UPS at other times. Reactions to this program have been favorable during the year that it has been in operation, and plans for the future include a one unit research skills class to be offered to area students in the fall and again in the spring.
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RESOURCE SHARING FOR BETTER SERVICE: THE NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE/MOGOLLON HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIMENT

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RESOURCE SHARING FOR BETTER SERVICE: THE NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE/MOGOLLON HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIMENT

Northland Pioneer College is a decentralized community college serving rurally populated Northeastern Arizona. Decentralization is the key to the college's success in that it offers an affordable education close to the student's home. This means that there are ten small learning resource centers serving the communities of Holbrook, Winslow, Show Low, Snowflake, Kykotsmovi, Kayenta, Springerville/Eager, St. Johns, Whiteriver, and Heber. Heber is a unique experiment because learning resource center services are not directly provided by Northland Pioneer College learning resource center personnel, but rather by a cooperative agreement with Mogollon High School. The learning resource center or library facility is owned by Mogollon High School, and used by Northland Pioneer College faculty and students. Cooperative reference services are provided by Northland Pioneer College District Learning Resource Center personnel in Holbrook, as are collections of materials which are sent on permanent loan to the high school library. The college also helps with inter-library loans. Articles are faxed on a routine basis when students and faculty need them. A limited amount of student help is also provided, as is a COM catalog of college holdings. A shuttle service provides physical delivery two times a week that classes are in session. When shuttle service is not practical, materials are delivered overnight by United Parcel Service.

Building a separate college learning resource center in the community of Heber would not be practical at this time, but sharing a facility that is already there is very practical. The high school collection helps the college students, and the college collection of materials helps the high school students. Faculty of both institutions are also pleased because a great many more materials are available to them and their students. Individuals in the Heber area as well as the adjoining community of Overgaard can get a low cost quality education close to their homes. Materials that would not ordinarily be available in these communities are made available through the growing cooperative efforts of Northland Pioneer College and Mogollon High School.

Since this cooperative effort has only been in place for one year, it is difficult to measure its success or failure at this time. Efforts are being made, however, to fine tune some of the services that are provided. A one unit research skills class will be offered to area students in the fall and again in the spring. The research skills class assists students in using the card catalog, developing a thesis statement, using Reader's Guide and related indexes, locating materials in the library by drawing a floor plan of the facility, and inter-library loan. Properly using inter-library loan in a setting such as the Heber setting is extremely important. Students must be taught to order their materials as soon as the assignment for research is given. Teachers and instructors must be

aware that in a small rural setting, it is often impossible to provide sophisticated reference materials immediately, but through cooperative efforts, xeroxing and faxing, even the most rural location is mainstreamed into a sophisticated reference and inter-library loan network. Arizona is most fortunate in that networking and cooperation are stressed. Even the smallest library is part of a network pattern not only as a borrower, but as a lender as well.

The Mogollon High School/Northland Pioneer College library model has been in place for only one year. Significant strides have been made because the individuals responsible for providing library services want the model to work. They want to work together. They want quality services for their library clientelles, and they are working hard to achieve this goal.